

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Venezuela braces for demos over jailed opposition leader



Supporters of Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez -- who was arrested on the eve on charges of homicide and inciting violence -- hold a protest outside of the Justice Palace (AFP)

CARACAS (AFP) - Hundreds of supporters of jailed Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez rallied Wednesday outside a Caracas court where he was expected to hear charges blaming him for a deadly episode of violence.

Heavy security sur-

rounded the Palace of Justice, blocking streets leading to the building, as the slogan-chanting crowd outside grew ahead of the expected arrival of the Harvard-educated economist, who spent the night in jail.

Lopez's dramatic surren-

der to national guard troops at a protest rally Tuesday was the culmination of two weeks of tension-filled protests in the oil-rich country against the leftist government of President Nicolas Maduro.

A 31-year-old woman died Wednesday after suffering a gunshot wound to the head in a protest march Tuesday in the northern city of Valencia, a hospital source told AFP.

Genesis Carmona's death raised to four the number of people killed since last week.

Maduro, successor of the late Hugo Chavez, is under fire over what protesters say is rampant crime, runaway inflation, high unemployment and other economic problems.

After three people were killed in street clashes February 12, Maduro ordered Lopez's arrest, blaming him for the violence.

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Obama condemns violence in Ukraine and warns of consequences

TOLUCA (AFP) - US President Barack Obama called on Ukraine's government on Wednesday to avoid resorting to violence to deal with peaceful protesters, warning of "consequences if people step over the line."

Obama made his remarks during a visit to Mexico as the European Union scheduled urgent talks to mull sanctions in the wake of clashes between police and anti-government protesters in Kiev that left at least 26 people dead.

The White House also warned that it was considering possible sanctions against those behind the unrest.

"We hold the Ukrainian government primarily responsible for making sure

that it is dealing with peaceful protesters in an appropriate way, that the Ukrainian people are able to assemble and speak freely about their interests without fear of repression," Obama said.

"I want to be very clear as we work through these next several days in Ukraine that we're going to be watching closely and we expect the Ukrainian government to show restraint, to not resort to violence in dealing with peaceful protesters," he said alongside Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto.

While the demonstrators were locked in a tense standoff with riot police across burning barricades on Wednesday, Obama said the United States also expected protesters to remain peaceful.

"We'll be monitoring very closely the situation, recognizing that with our European partners and the international community, there will be consequences if people step over the line," the US leader said.

"And that includes making sure the Ukrainian military does not step into what should be a set of issues that can be resolved by civilians."

The crackdown on anti-government protests by security forces on Tuesday triggered a storm of international condemnation, with the 28-nation EU bloc convening urgent talks for Thursday.

- US sanctions warning -

The United States also warned of potential sanctions.

"We've made clear that we consider taking action against individuals who are responsible for acts of violence within Ukraine," US Deputy National Security Advisory Ben Rhodes said.

"We have a toolkit for doing that that includes sanctions."

Friends honored at Divi Phoenix



Recently, ATA representative Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure to present many loyal Aruba's visitors with their distinctive certificates. This time at the Divi Phoenix. Honorees are: Goodwill Ambassadors: Henry and Clara King from New York, Steven and Catina Keares from Pennsylvania.

Distinguished Visitors:

Dawn Mascoll from New York, Stefano and Chrisoula Stergiadis from Ontario, Bruce and Vikki Rome from Maryland, Daniel and Barbara Drumm from Pennsylvania, Patricia and Redmond Sheets from Massachusetts, Karen and Jeff Sonderman from New Jersey, Terry and Michael Masi from New Jersey, Barry and

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The most beautiful Carnival queens of all elected at the SABA celebration



Queen Mirla Peternella with second and first runner up



Prins Ham (L) and Pancho Keshi (R)

ORANJESTAD -- Carnival spirit infuses every aspect and walk of life on Aruba during the season, and those receiving elderly care enjoy the festive time of year greatly. Personnel who see to the needs are part of the Stichting Algemene Bejaardenzorg Aruba, or General Elderly Care Foundation, which maintains four facilities on the island.

The Oranjestad care home at St. Michael's Pavilion

treated their clients to a gala event yesterday morning, with lively music, special snacks, and the requisite queen pageant, among those living there and the workers who care for them.

The seven candidates contending for the title of "SABA Carnival Queen 2014" took the contest very seriously. They created remarkable costumes, most out of recycled materials, which in many cases clearly typified

their department, be it the laundry, kitchen, housekeeping or patient care.

They also recruited their colleagues for what were usually hilarious imitations of the lavish productions which are an integral part of Aruba's actual queen competitions. It was this dedicated spirit and lively production that won Mirla Peternella, who works in the kitchens, the 2014 crown. First Runner Up was Petra Croes from the laundry and Maria Sophia, in a costume made from juice containers, claimed Second Runner Up.

Among the clients, Carmen Lugo was named Reina Sonrisa (Queen of Smiles) and Mary Flanders won the "Nos Dushi Grandi" crown. All winners were lavished with several gifts donated from sponsors, including phones from SETAR N.V., Aruba's national telecommunications company.

It was an exciting morning full of carnival spirit for both personnel and patients of the St. Michael's Pavilion, with all ages dancing and demonstrating you are never too old for carnival!

By Rosalie Klein



Queen of the Elderly Mary Flanders



Reina Sonrisa Carmen Lugo



Supporters



All the candidates



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Government Labor Mediator Anselmo Pontilius: "Westin labor dispute is setting a new precedent"



Anselmo Pontilius

ORANJESTAD --- In November of last year, it was confirmed that a specially formed subsidiary of the Riu Palace international organization, Infinity View, was purchasing the controlling shares of Aruba Hotel Enterprises, operators of what is now the Westin Resort Aruba from the Wells Fargo Bank, which owns the building and all contained therein. The hotel first opened its doors in 1977 as a Concorde, and has operated under a number of internationally known hospitality brands since then, including Wyndham and Hilton flags.

On January 9th, the new operators announced their intention to close the resort for a year of renovations and improvements, at which time it will re-open, most likely under the Riu flag, though the latter is not fully confirmed at present. The date for closure has been set for February 27. The new owners also expressed through their Aruban lawyer that they

intended to layoff the entire staff of the resort, and hire anew prior to re-opening.

This has created quite a stir in the labor market and among officials involved as well as the 380+ permanent employees, who believed that labor laws passed last year guaranteed their jobs. In

an attempt to clarify the situation for the public and parties involved, Aruba's official Labor Mediator, Anselmo Pontilius kindly agreed to speak with THE MORNING NEWS.

Mr. Pontilius comes to the situation with quite some experience, as he was President of the Federacion di Trahadornan di Aruba (FTA) the island's largest workers' union, for several years. He was personally involved in negotiations and settlements of this exact situation in the past, when the Radisson took over from Golden Tulip. The Americana when through extensive renovations before re-opening as an Occidental, as well as a change over at Aruba Hotel Enterprises when Concorde closed its doors. Uniformly, negotiations resulted in an agreement, with all staff maintaining their positions and receiving their salaries during the time of construction. Many actually joined the work force doing the ren-

ovations.

Immediately upon the Infinity View announcement, the government labor mediator was approached by union representatives of the employees. "The lawyer for the buyers explained to the staff that they would offer them a termination agreement" recounted Mr. Pontilius, "What particularly disturbed the workers' union, was they were very firm when announcing the offer that if a worker would not accept the agreement, they were prepared to go to court and request the judge to terminate."

"That does not mean that legally, it can or will be terminated," he continued. "My opinion is we haven't seen that in the last 25 years. Not as a rule will the judge, in court, rule against the employee being eligible for termination because of renovation. We haven't seen that."

"I explained to the union that in my personal experience, we did negotiate in all renovations and similar situations that the employees should not lose their jobs. We arranged that employees would go over to the other employers, paid by them. When approached by the union, as the government mediator, this is what we advise."

Aruba Hotel Enterprises presented a termination proposal, which was withdrawn and redrafted. The incoming owners have put a cap of two-years salary as a settlement on any proposal, though Mr. Pontilius concedes that


perhaps the judge would rule for more, it is hard to know, as this sort of case has never come to court before.

The workers were informed, in writing, of the hotel's closure date, but the mediator's office reminds those involved that their salaries will not automatically stop at that time. Until an agreement is reached, it should continue. "This abrupt announcement left many of the employees upset and frightened; they believed their salaries would stop at that time. This is not the case. They are also quite frightened when

being told a court and judge will decide on their future."

The legal representation of their unions, and there are three involved in this case, informed them that according to the law, the new employers have the right to present all staff with a termination agreement, but conversely, the employees are not obligated by law to accept it. It was made very clear they have the legal right to turn it down. It is at this point that parties would enter into negotiations.

Continued on pg 5



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February 17 SETAR switched on its LTE network

SEROE BLANCO — Aruba's telecommunication company, SETAR N.V. advises its clients that as of yesterday, it has switch on its LTE network. Now all SETAR clients can enjoy LTE technology on their smart phones.

LTE (Long Term Evolution) is a wireless broadband technology designed to support roaming Internet access via cell phones and handheld devices. Because LTE offers significant improvements over older cellular communication standards, some refer to it as a 4G (fourth generation) technology.

With its architecture based on Internet Protocol (IP) unlike many other cellular Internet protocols, Long Term Evolution supports browsing Web sites, VoIP and other IP-based services well. LTE can theoretically support downloads at 300 Megabits per

second (Mbps) or more, based on experimental trials.

According to SETAR Director Roland Croes, the LTE technology is a game changer that will surpass all records. It will have a huge impact on different apps used, for example, telemedicine, education, cloud and even in the auto business that is now "much more smart and interactive."

SETAR's network will deploy a 1800Mhz frequency and all smart phones with this frequency can use SETAR's LTE network.

LTE is not a new data service. It will elevate the "customer experience" to a higher level, most definitely and noticeably, the speed. For example, when playing a game with someone else on your smart phone, the reaction will be faster. It is foreseen that for the year 2016

there will be 1 billion LTE users. A few of the products and apps already using the LTE technology are:

Android: Samsung Galaxy S4, Samsung Galaxy S4 mini, Samsung Galaxy S4 Active, Samsung Galaxy Mega 6.3, Samsung Galaxy Note 3, Samsung Galaxy Ace 3 and Samsung Galaxy S3-i9305.

Windows: Nokia Lumia 1020 and 920. BlackBerry: BlackBerry Q10 and BlackBerry Q5.

Soon SETAR will announce other cellular models that will also use LTE technology.

For more information on various Postpaid Data Bundles, Hybrid Data Bundles, Postpaid wireless Broadband plans, prepaid LTE and Prepaid LTE Wireless Broadband packages visit SETAR's website www.setar.aw

Cas Animal Cont'd Cas Animal and the Pennsylvania connection



Joanne Robinson, Vicki Patterson and Kirsten Arndt

ORANJESTAD -- Our continuing coverage of Cas Animal Foundation of Aruba, which is dedicated to rescuing abandoned and abused dogs off island streets, ideally to be placed in a good home, has had many encouraging events to report over the last few months. No matter how badly injured or weakened by disease, Cas Animal founder, Kirsten Arndt, has

discovered hundreds of times over that with proper medical care, frightened, injured and abused dogs and puppies can be rehabilitated to be a wonderful friend to a loving person. Often, their afflictions are only superficial, but rendering them unattractive, which is no reason, in Kirsten's opinion, to deprive them of a happy life and the chance to be a loyal, loving

companion.

The foundation's mission is to build Aruba's first no-kill animal shelter, but the primary goal aside from providing a permanent shelter for the unwanted, is to place the rescued dogs in loving homes. For the last six months Cas Animal has been experiencing exceptional success along this lines. The latest pairing was the foundation's holiday poster puppy, Aaron, with frequent island visitor Brandy Hawk of Pennsylvania.

Brandy is also adopting two adult dogs and a puppy, which got a last minute reprieve from being put down by local animal control services. Brandy is a staunch supporter of Aruba establishing a no-kill dog shelter, and the first step in recruiting all her friends and other like-minded individuals came to pass a couple of weeks ago.

Aside from the dogs and puppies Brandy has personally adopted, three more friends of the foundation, Vicki Patterson with Joanne Robinson and Ed Robinson delivered four more adorable puppies to her when returning from their annual Aruba sojourn. They have been named Freddy, Bella, Rosie and Noodles, and have been de-wormed, vaccinated, and made ready to be adopted.

Continued pg 5

Hyatt Regency Casino gives away \$25,564,00 in less than one week!



Jennifer Olszewski



David Rodriguez

PALM BEACH -- The slot machines at Hyatt Regency Casino are going crazy. In only one week's time they gave away attractive winnings to patrons.

Jennifer Olszewski won \$3206.26; she played for only 15 minutes at the Jackpot Carnival slot machine.

David Rodriguez invested



Edith Buhrman \$4000

only \$5 in the Great Eagle returns bonus and won \$4,359.33

For Edith Buhrman, Lady Luck struck twice; she invested \$5 in the Game King slot machine and won \$4,000, then decided to continue playing and within 30 minutes she won another \$8,964!

Last but not least: Judith Lue won \$3034.57 playing the Jackpot Carnival slot machine after only investing \$0.50!

Hyatt Regency Casino invites everyone to come try their luck at the slot machines. There is a wide variety of which to choose from. Members of the Players Advantage Club who register can enjoy all the special promotions Hyatt Regency Casino has in house.

In addition, the Caribbean Stud Poker's jackpot has increased to the whopping sum of \$69,600.

The Hyatt Regency Casino has various exciting events through the week: On Friday, February 21, the casino has a Blackjack Tournament; on Thursday February 27, Triple Points; and on Friday, February 28, a Slot Tournament with the chance to win \$1,000.

"Join the fun every night at the Hyatt Regency Casino. Play, sip a refreshing cocktail and mix with the crowd. Our electrifying Aruba casino will keep you delightfully entertained night after night," a spokesperson invites.



Judith Lue



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"Westin labor dispute..."

Cont. from pg 3

However, Infinity View has made it very clear they wish to reopen the resort with a "clean sheet," regarding staff, with no interest in sitting at the table, or considering any sort of negotiation. A number of the staff have already accepted the agreement and tendered their resignation, as they report that they did not care for the way they have been treated regarding the situation, and prefer to seek employment elsewhere.

"We should not forget that employees were convinced, because of laws passed in Parliament last year, their jobs were guaranteed," explained Mr. Pontilius. "That law is very strong, but it is about continuity. We do not have a new company coming in, the staff will still be working for Aruba Hotel Enterprises. This makes the workers' case stronger, if they choose to fight it. Finally, a judge will decide."

Mr. Pontilius made it very clear that the government has not the legal authority to force Infinity View to take a different course, and must remain neutral regarding the outcome. "We cannot force on any employer or employee what they going to do. Usually, at this point, we would mediate negotiations."

The government has definitively informed the incoming operators that they should recruit all personnel, both for the construction process and hotel staff, from the local labor pool. Permits for foreign workers will not be issued unless the government is fully satisfied that every effort towards this was executed. Those who accepted the termination agreement and resigned were promised by the new operators that they would receive first consideration when the new hotel was hiring, but that is only a promise, and is not binding. Those who signed are warned to not rely on this outcome.

"The major question is 'Why do these new owners want to terminate everyone, when you are going to reopen your hotel in a short time?'" asserts Mr. Pontilius. "You need three or four hundred people-why? Their lawyers are claiming the operation has performed very poorly of late, and they would prefer they have the right to select who they will need for a new

operation."

"If you ask me, it is a very weak argument," he continued. "Contrary to that, we believe that when you have employees with so many years of service and so much experience, it will greatly smooth the operation and changeover. That was the experience at the Radisson and the Occidental." He conceded they are very likely looking at the bottom line of paying entry-level salaries to a new staff, rather than the high annuities earned by employees who have worked at the Westin for decades, through several incarnations. "But even in this case, it is always possible to sit at the table and reach an agreement," he believes.

"The question is, what will happen now? Here we are. In our conversations with the new buyers. They have said there is no room to negotiate for anyone to stay on the job. They have been clear on that. I believe that the ones who are willing to take on the process in court will find the judge will not rule against them. Then again, there will be the situation where they will renovate the hotel, and hopefully, before they reopen, they will start calling the people back."

He expressed that the desire of an employee to stay with a resort, and that sense of loyalty, dedication and pride with their place of employment is a valuable asset, which should be encouraged and preserved. If some of the present employees decide to hold firm and take the issue to court, it will set a definitive legal precedent, as in the past, the incoming operators were always willing to negotiate and eventually, reached an agreement. The position the incoming operators are taking has never been challenged previously. "We must also hope that those who do fight it, and if they win, their rights as employees are protected, and they receive no backlash for their action."

"We should not forget that the employer and employee are a balance, together. If there is a negative atmosphere on the job, service will be affected, eventually influencing the experience of the guests."


By Rosalie Klein

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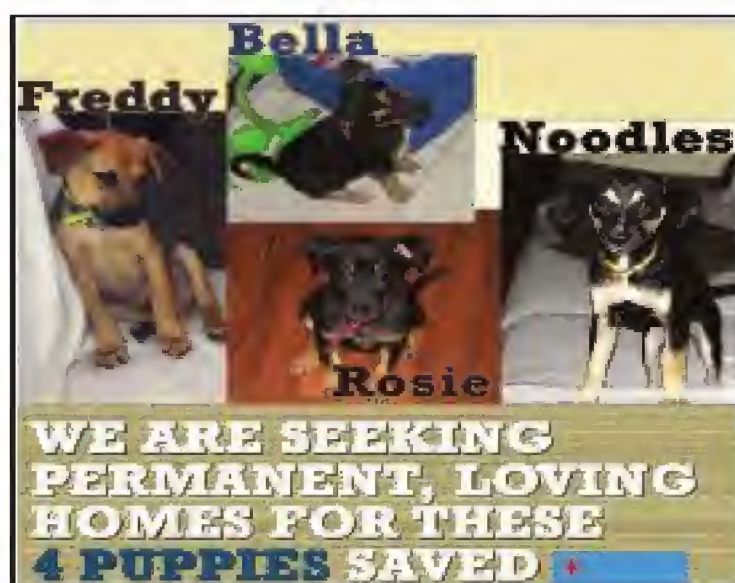
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Cas Animal Cont'd

Cont. from pg 4



Flyer for homes

Brandy has begun her wide-reaching campaign to assist in the cause of finding good homes for these sweet young canines, who are ready to be welcomed to the family. Anyone from the Philadelphia area or its environs, interested in giving these dogs a good home can contact Brandy at vegawarian@gmail.com. There is no concern about

transporting the dogs from Aruba, or acquiring health certificates for entry to the U.S., as this has already been done.

If you have taken on temporary care of an Aruba dog you have met during your vacation,

it is easy to take them back with you. Cas Animal has assisted many in this process. Call Kirsten at 742-8732 and she will help you through the process of acquiring the papers and a carrier needed to take one home. As this story demonstrates, this is done regularly and many happy owners find great pleasure in being re-

minded every day of Aruba by their loving new companion.

The medical and feeding costs of all the rescued animals under foundation care is never ending. Presently, there are about 50, and there are new additions almost weekly. As many as possible are processed for adoption, but there will always be those too injured or disabled, at which most balk at the responsibility. These are assured of the proper care and love within the foundation's shelter. Those wishing to support Kirsten's work with donations can do so in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics, call; 587-0917. Donations can also be made directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110.



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Venezuela braces for demos...

Cont. from pg 1

Shouts of "Freedom, Freedom!" and "It's going to fall, it's going to fall, this corrupt government is going to fall" rose from the crowd.

Lopez himself got on the loudspeaker from within the vehicle to appeal for calm.

Three rings of national police backed by a second line of National Guard anti-riot troops with light armored vehicles were positioned around the plaza.

Meanwhile, the government summoned its followers to rallies of its own in an area of downtown Caracas where the opposition march was to end, raising the risk of a violent confrontation.

"They will not pass"

"Not one single opposition march is going to enter the territory of Libertador municipality," said National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello, referring to the city's western downtown district, where the opposition march was to end.

"They will not pass. It is not authorized," Cabello said late Monday on his new nightly television program.

The opposition protesters turned out anyway. Some carried signs that read: "24,763 violent deaths in 2013. We are more than a statistic."

"We are expressing the frustration we feel. The country is in chaos, there are no supplies in the hospitals, we are sick of the insecurity. I want a Venezuela of progress," said Satele Oviedo, a 27-year-old hospital worker.

Under the slogan "the exit," Lopez and other opposition leaders have pushed for anti-government street protests to force a "constitutional change."

There is no provision for recall elections until April 2016, and Maduro, who was elected in April 2013, has said he will never resign.

The confrontational approach has aroused misgivings within the opposition coalition formed in 2012 to defeat the late Hugo Chavez.

But Henrique Capriles, the two-time opposition presi-

dential candidate and governor of the state of Miranda, said he would take part in Tuesday's march even though he does not think the time is ripe to try to force the government from power.

"We may have differences but we feel solidarity," Capriles said.

- Tense US-Venezuela ties -

The tensions generated by the protests have spilled into the international arena as well.

On Sunday, Maduro ordered the expulsion of three US diplomats, accusing them of meeting with student leaders under the guise of offering them visas.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki, confirming the expulsion orders, said Tuesday the United States was considering what actions it will take.

"We have seen many times that the Venezuelan government tries to distract from its own actions by blaming the United States or other members of the international community for events inside Venezuela," she said.

Obama in Mexico for less friendly 'three amigos' talks

TOLUCA (AFP) - US President Barack Obama joined the Mexican and Canadian leaders Wednesday for a North American summit focused on trade but marked by friction between the "three amigos."

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto shook hands with Obama in an ornate state government palace in Toluca, near Mexico City, for private one-on-one talks before Prime Minister Stephen Harper joined them later.

The partners of the 20-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) are locked in several thorny disputes likely to surface in the talks and at a joint closing news conference.

Pena Nieto has sought to turn attention away from Mexico's security problems, which have left more than

77,000 people dead in a seven-year-old drug conflict, and toward trade and his sweeping economic and energy reforms.

"I want to congratulate President Pena Nieto on the outstanding efforts that he's made during the course of this year on a whole range of reforms that promise to make Mexico more competitive and increase opportunity for the people of Mexico," Obama said.

But hundreds of leftist opposition supporters staged a demonstration in Toluca, holding signs reading "Stop selling Mexico!" to protest the reforms.

- Sources of friction -

Although the allies want to discuss ways to improve NAFTA through a potential trade pact with Asia-Pacific nations, their talks come with some discord on other issues.

Obama will no doubt face a new entreaty from Harper to quickly make up his mind on the Keystone XL pipeline project, which would carry crude from Canada's oil sands across the continental United States to Texas.

Canada is deeply frustrated at delays in the project, which is awaiting a construction permit and has caught the Obama administration between its backers in the environmental community and claims it will create thousands of jobs.

But Harper is unlikely to get an answer, as Secretary of State John Kerry continues his deliberations on the project.

Pena Nieto will, meanwhile, likely offer Obama some support, but also a measure of frustration over the failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform in the United States.



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Boko Haram chief threatens attacks in Nigeria oil region

KANO (AFP) - The leader of radical Islamist group Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, threatened attacks in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta region in a new video released on Wednesday.

"You will in coming days see your refinery bombed," Shekau warned in the 28-minute video obtained by AFP through the same channel as previous clips. It is unclear when the video was recorded.

The video was shot in an open field, where Shekau was surrounded by an armoured tank, two military vans and about a dozen gun-bearing soldiers.

Nigeria, Africa's largest oil producer, derives more than 90 percent of its foreign exchange earnings from oil.



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Brazil might deploy military during World Cup: Rousseff

BRASÍLIA (AFP) - President Dilma Rousseff said Wednesday Brazil's military could be deployed to provide security during the World Cup, if necessary, as the host country contends with a spate of violent protests. Rousseff, in a radio interview, said steps were being taken to improve security in the 12 cities where matches are scheduled to be held from June 12 to July 13. She insisted that fans, tourists, soccer teams and dignitaries expected to flock to Brazil for the World Cup play would be well protected. "The federal police, the national public security force, the highway police -- all these organs are ready and positioned to act within their areas of competence," she said. Brazilian cities have been hit since last June by often violent protests -- most recently one on February 6, in which a television cameraman was killed. Rousseff said the vandalism that has often accompanied the protests were "inadmissible in a democratic country." Her government is working on a bill that would toughen penalties for acts of vandalism during the World Cup, and the Brazilian Congress is debating a separate "anti-terrorist" bill that also would stiffen sanctions.

Two days of bloody unrest in Ukraine



KIEV (AFP) : Anti-government protesters who were wounded during Tuesday night's deadly clashes with riot police on Kiev's Independence Square, rest yesterday in Mykhaylo Gold Dome cathedral which was turned into a hospital. Anti-government protesters in Kiev braced yesterday for a fresh assault by riot police after a day of fierce clashes left at least 30 people dead in Ukraine's worst crisis since the collapse of the Soviet Union. A crackdown by Ukraine security forces on Tuesday triggered a storm of international condemnation, including talk of sanctions, and various embassies shutting down. Tuesday bloodshed came after some three months of mostly peaceful protests, which broke out after President Viktor Yanukovich ditched a pact with the European Union in favor of closer ties with former Soviet master Russia.

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Cuba to see campaign for a constitutional reform

HAVANA (AFP) - A campaign aimed at bringing about constitutional reform in Cuba will soon be launched with the support of domestic and international opposition groups, a prominent dissident announced.

The campaign will aim to gather the 10,000 signatures necessary under Cuban law to file a reform bid in the one-party state's national assembly. "It is more important to change the nature of power than to change those exercising power," dissident Manuel Cuesta Morua told reporters as he presented the campaign, titled "Roadmap: toward constitutional change."

Manuel Cuesta said the bid would bring together several Cuba opposition groups and actively launch in May with events in Cuba, the US states of Florida and New Jersey, Puerto Rico and Spain.

In May 2002, the Christian Liberation Movement headed by the now deceased political activist Oswaldo Paya tabled a similar initiative in parliament that was backed by more than 10,000 signatures.

In response, lawmakers adopted a constitutional reform stating that the socialist nature of the Cuban regime was "irrevocable."

The previous reform attempt "stems from another era, today we think that the conditions are better for citizens to support an initiative of this kind," Manuel Cuesta said.

Cuba considers dissidents "mercenaries" in Washington's pay.

New York 'lone wolf' terror plotter faces 16 years

NEW YORK (AFP) - A Muslim convert accused of plotting to bomb targets in New York and kill US soldiers pleaded guilty Wednesday to one charge and faces 16 years in jail, the city attorney's office said.

Jose Pimentel, 29, a US citizen born in the Dominican Republic, was arrested by New York police in November 2011 and has been portrayed by officials as a "lone wolf" terrorist inspired by Al-Qaeda.

He was initially indicted on five counts and could have been jailed for life if convicted faced. He is now expected to face 16 years behind bars when sentenced on March 25.

In part of a plea agreement in which he forfeits the rights of appeal or review Pimentel said that he tried to make a pipe bomb in an attempt to force US troops out of Arab countries.

He was accused of plotting to bomb police cars and post offices and kill US servicemen returning from Afghanistan and Iraq to protest the Ameri-

can military intervention in those countries.

Pimentel, who allegedly was building a pipe bomb at the time of his arrest, had been under surveillance by New York police for about two years.

He initially pleaded not guilty to the charges. Terrorism cases are usually prosecuted in federal courts in the United States.

However federal authorities declined to take on Pimentel's prosecution, leaving it to the New York district attorney's office to pursue.

According to documents filed in court, Pimentel collected spare parts such as incendiary powder, pipes with drilled holes, electronic circuits, clocks and nails to build pipe bombs.

The prosecution says each of the components was proscribed in a step-by-step guide in Al-Qaeda's English-language Inspire Magazine on how to make a bomb designed to maximize casualties.

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How to stay safe in the sun



It's important to protect your and your children's skin in the sun to avoid sunburn and heat exhaustion.

- Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15. The higher the SPF, the better. Go for broad-spectrum sunscreens, which protect against harmful UVA and UVB rays. Make sure the product is not past its expiry date. Most sunscreens have a shelf life of two to three years. For Kids and babies choose sunscreens that are formulated for children and babies' skin, as these are less likely to irritate their skin.

- Don't spend any longer in the sun than you would without sunscreen. Sunscreen should not be used as an excuse to stay out in the sun. Instead, it offers protection when exposure is unavoidable. Spend time in the shade between 11am and 3pm, under umbrellas, trees, canopies or indoors.

- Signs of heat exhaustion include faintness, dizziness, palpitations, nausea, headaches, low blood pressure, tiredness, confusion, loss of appetite and hallucinations. If this occurs, get to rest in a cool place, ideally a room with air conditioning. Drink plenty of water. Avoid alcohol or caffeine as this can increase levels of dehydration. Cool skin with cold water. Use a shower or cold bath to cool down or, if this is not possible, wet flannels and face cloths in water and apply to skin. Loosen any unnecessary clothing and make sure that you get plenty of ventilation.

- One of the best ways to protect your family from the sun is to cover up and shield skin from UV rays. Ensure that clothes will screen out harmful UV rays by placing your hand inside the garments and making sure you can't see it through them.

"FIT TEENS" pilot project for Colegio Arubano

ORANJESTAD - IBiSA together with the Department of Public Health is offering guidance and assistance to the Ciclo Basico classes at the Colegio Arubano for a pilot project dubbed "Fit Teens." This project is scheduled to begin tomorrow.

The project will be given in the form of a 12 weeks course which entails health topics focused on physical movement and healthy eating. The first class begins Wednesday February 19 and will run through to Wednesday, May 21st, 2014.

At the Colegio Arubano, physical education teacher Pamela Flanegen Postuma approached the IBiSA to prepare this course together. IBiSA in turn requested the assistance of the Department of Public Health. With united forces and a good team they will plan and execute this project.

At IBiSA, Lifestyle Coach, Joel Martijn, Ebrina Curet, nutritionist/dietician, and Jeanira Wernet in charge of the "Paga Tino" of FADA, will be lending their support to the project.

The "Fit Teens" course will be directed toward students in the Ciclo Basico at Colegio Arubano to stimulate them to begin a healthy lifestyle. Important themes to be addressed will be: Eating Healthy, Eating on Time, What is a desirable body weight, etc.



During the course, which will take place weekly, they will also be working on the physical condition of the students. They will explain, for example, how to measure BMI as well as do physical testing of body condition. The goal according to international norms is for young people under 19 years of age to have physical activity for 60 minutes per day.

The goal of this project is to make students aware of their health and what is the best way to begin adapting to a new life style, one that is healthier by means of physical exercise and of keeping fit and eating healthy.

IBiSA is happy to partner with others in the field of health on this pilot Project for Colegio Arubano.

Bowie tipped to become oldest Brit Award winner



LONDON (AFP) - David Bowie could become the oldest recipient of a Brit Award when Britain's version of the Grammys takes place on Wednesday.

Bowie, 67, nominated in the best British male solo artist category for his unexpected comeback last year with album "The Next Day", is tipped to win the award for the first time since 1984.

The current oldest winner is Welsh crooner Tom Jones, who received an honorary prize for his outstanding contribution to music in 2003, when he was 62.

Bowie is ranked the 1/3 odds-on favourite by book-makers to beat James Blake, Tom Odell, John Newman and Jake Bugg -- who are all at least 40 years younger than him.

It would be only Bowie's second proper win at the Brits -- besides his 1984 award, his only other title was an honorary one in 1996 for his outstanding contribution to British music.

If Bowie turns up to collect his prize at the O2 Arena in London it would be a huge surprise as he has kept an enigmatically low profile in New York for the past decade.

British teen heartthrobs One Direction are the act to beat for the best video prize for their single "Best Song Ever".

The award will be decided by social media for the first time at the Brits, with voting open to fans around the world as the show will be screened on YouTube in a bid to boost its international status.

With almost 18 million followers on Twitter, Harry Styles and his One Direction band-mates have a clear advantage.

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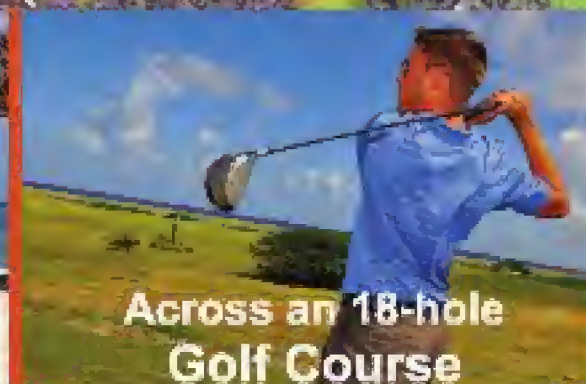
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'Lego Movie' builds on box office success

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "The Lego Movie" notched a second straight week atop the North American box office, earning more than \$62 million over the four-day holiday weekend, industry figures showed Tuesday.

The movie based on the popular kids' toys has raked in \$142.8 million since its debut, including \$49.8 million over three days or \$62.5 million including the Monday Presidents' Day holiday, box office tracker Exhibitor Relations said.

"About Last Night," a romantic comedy starring Kevin

Hart, took second place on its opening weekend. The film took \$25.6 million in ticket sales over three days, or \$27.8 million over four.

Close behind was a reboot of "RoboCop," which sold \$21.7 million (\$25.1 over four days) in tickets for third place. The update of the 1987 sci-fi film stars Samuel L. Jackson and Michael Keaton.

Fourth place went to "The Monuments Men," directed by and starring George Clooney. The film about a World War II platoon tasked with recovering

art masterpieces looted by the Nazis earned \$15.5 million, or \$17.9 million including Monday.

"Endless Love," about teenage romance, debuted in fifth place this Valentine's Day weekend, with \$13.3 million in box office receipts, or \$14.4 million over four days.

In sixth place was "Ride Along," a police action-comedy starring Kevin Hart -- his second appearance this weekend in the top 10 movies -- and Ice Cube. It earned an estimated \$8.7 million (\$9.8 million).

Seventh place went to the opening of "Winter's Tale," based on the Mark Helprin novel about a tortured time traveler. The film, starring Irish heartthrob Colin Farrell, Russell Crowe, Eva Marie Saint and Jennifer Connelly, earned \$7.3 million, or more than \$8 million including Monday.

Disney smash and animated Oscar nominee front-runner "Frozen," loosely-based on a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, was in the eighth spot, earning \$6.2 million (\$8.06 million).

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US renews 'Open Internet' push after court order

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US regulators said Wednesday they would write new "open Internet" rules following a court ruling last month that struck down provisions aimed at barring providers from playing favorites for online services.

Federal Communications Commission officials said that even though the US appeals court invalidated the so-called "Net Neutrality" rules, the decision provided a "blueprint" for a new set of regulations.

"Preserving the Internet as an open platform for innovation and expression while providing certainty and predictability in the marketplace is an important responsibility of this agency," FCC chairman Tom Wheeler said in a statement.

The FCC said it would not appeal the January 14 ruling by the federal appeals court in Washington, but instead craft new rules which achieve the goals of equal treatment for services offered over the Internet.

The "Net Neutrality" rules were aimed at preventing big telecom operators from blocking or slowing online offerings like Netflix or YouTube, while promoting services of their own partners.

The court decision was "an invitation for the commission to act to preserve and protect a free and open Internet," a senior FCC official told reporters in a telephone briefing.

The official said the ruling gives the FCC the ability to devise new rules with a more solid legal foundation, which

guarantee equal access for so-called "edge providers" like Netflix.

The court used a narrow legal justification for striking down the 2010 rules, saying the FCC court not regulate broadband providers like Verizon and AT&T as "common carriers" or public utilities.

But Wheeler said the court affirmed the agency's "legal authority to issue enforceable rules of the road to preserve Internet freedom and openness."

"We now have from the DC Circuit (court) a blueprint for effective action," the senior FCC official said.

Verizon, which brought the lawsuit against the FCC, will not appeal the ruling either, a source familiar with the matter said.

Asked about the FCC initia-

tive, Verizon spokesman Ed McFadden said in an email, "Verizon remains committed to an open Internet that provides consumers with competitive choices and unblocked access to lawful websites and content

when, where, and how they want."

"We have always focused on providing our customers with the services and experience they want, and this focus has not changed," McFadden said.

Candy Crush creator plans float on New York stock exchange

LONDON (AFP) - The developer behind the wildly-addictive Candy Crush puzzle game said Tuesday it is seeking a listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

Millions of commuters, teenagers -- even pensioners -- clock in daily to test their skills at the game, which involves lining up tiny pieces of coloured sweets to make them vanish from the screen of their computer or mobile phone.

King Digital Entertainment said it had asked the US Securities and Exchange Commission regulatory body for a listing.

King hopes to raise some \$500 million, according to an estimate in its SEC filing -- although similar IPOs have raised much more.

Candy Crush -- King's top-selling game -- started life as a Facebook game in 2012 but can also be played online and on smartphones.

The highly-addictive game is free, but players can pay for in-app extras to help them pass up through its more than 500 levels.

Candy Crush records some 700 million sessions a day and racks up daily sales of \$850,000 (630,000 euros), according to the IDATE digital research and consultancy firm.

Thirty percent of Candy Crush players quizzed in a survey last year called themselves "addicted", while 67 percent



said the game had impacted on their lives in some way -- distracting them from work or household chores.

A quarter of players said they had spent money on the game, according to market research firm Ask Your Target Market.

King Digital's planned float is the latest in a series by Internet and gaming firms over the past three years -- the most high-profile being Facebook and Twitter.

Despite its 1.1 billion users, Facebook had a rocky debut after it went public in May 2012, raising \$16 billion in the biggest tech IPO on record. Its shares fell by more than half in the ensuing months, but have since recovered thanks to strong gains in mobile ad revenues.

Twitter's IPO raised \$1.8 billion in November 2013 -- although shares later tumbled on warnings the micro-blogging network was overvalued.

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Services of Contact Center (118, 117, 139, 114 and SETARNET Helpdesk) and Telekiosk Airport will be open normal hours.

Our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Amsterdam to invest €90m in new bike parking spaces

THE HAGUE -The Amsterdam area authorities are to invest €120m in improving facilities for cyclists, of which €90m will be spent on 40,000 new bike parking places.

The use of bikes in the Dutch capital has gone up by more than 40% over the past 20 years, the city council says. This means narrow bike lanes are having to accommodate an increasing volume of bike traffic and overcrowded bike racks are 'beginning to affect accessibility'.

The city has now decided to speed up the introduction of measures to help cyclists. These include looking into

'green waves' for cyclists at traffic lights to improve the flow of cycle traffic, providing cyclists with extra space at crossings and the appointment of an official responsible for coordinating the removal of disused bikes.

These plans come on top of plans to increase the number of bike parking places by 40,000 and add a further 17 km of new bike lanes.

The council is also planning a 'large-scale drive' to remove disused bikes from cycle racks and is looking into the introduction of maximum permitted times at cycle parking spaces.

ATMs raise Bitcoin profile, concerns

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Even if you aren't sure what a Bitcoin is, you may soon find them at a nearby machine.

The first Bitcoin ATMs are cropping up in North America,

enabling consumers to swap cash for units of the cryptocurrency, or cash in their Bitcoins. ATMs are coming in Europe and Asia as well.

The machines could allow Bitcoins, generated by a complex computer algorithm designed in 2009, to move out of the realm of geeks to the broader public.

Robocoin provides the hardware, made in the United States, to local operators, who must get certification from state and federal authorities and comply with anti-money laundering rules.

Operators around the world will also need certification in the countries where they operate, Kelley said.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Talks to end Panama canal expansion row hit new snag

PANAMA CITY (AFP) - Negotiations to end a row that has stopped work on the Panama Canal expansion have hit "serious disagreements," the canal administrator has said.

Work has been suspended for two weeks, as the main contractor, the GUPC consortium led by Spanish group Sacyr, and the canal administrator fight over who should pay \$1.6 billion in cost overruns.

"While last week the parties seemed to have reconciled their positions on different points of the discussions, at the

point of putting these rapprochements down on paper, serious disagreements appeared," the Panama Canal Authority said Tuesday evening.

GUPC wants Panama to add the sum to the initial contract fee of \$3.2 billion, saying unforeseen geological difficulties forced them to spend much more on cement than expected. They say that they based their estimates on data provided by the Canal Authority that were incorrect.

The canal authority wants to get construction back under-

way with both sides contributing \$100 million as negotiations on a final agreement continue.

The canal expansion is one of the world's most ambitious civil engineering projects and aims to widen the canal to accommodate massive cargo ships. The project was due to be completed next year.

The original canal, built by the United States mostly with workers brought in from the Caribbean, was opened in 1914, and now handles five percent of global seaborne trade.

IMF urges stronger growth efforts from G20 economies

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The IMF on Wednesday called for the Group of 20 to boost growth, warning of risks to the global economy, from deflation in Europe to high volatility in emerging economies.

The International Monetary Fund said advanced economies, which include most of the G20, are still leading a pickup in economic growth overall around the world.

But it said more coordinated work is needed to keep output expanding and boost demand, as the world economy still struggles to leave behind the financial crisis that began in 2008.

"The recovery has been disappointing, with G20 output still below longer-term trend," the IMF said in a report ahead of a meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bankers in Sydney beginning Saturday.

"Joint action is needed to boost output and to lower global risks substantially through more balanced growth."

Despite the eruption of more financial turmoil in emerging-market economies last month, the IMF stuck to its forecast of the world's economy expanding 3.7 per-

cent this year, after a 3.0 percent pace in 2013.

It said it was assuming that the volatility that has unnerved emerging economic powers like Indonesia, Brazil and South Africa would be short-lived.

But it suggested that also depended upon further reforms in those economies as well as more work to boost demand in advanced countries.

"The recovery is still weak and significant downside risks remain," the Fund said, citing capital outflows, higher interest rates, and sharp currency depreciation in emerging economies as a "key concern".

It said that tighter financial conditions globally, led by the US Federal Reserve's "tapering" of its stimulus, could further undercut growth in a number of countries.

In addition, extremely low inflation in Europe has the IMF worried about how an unanticipated shock to the economy

could push the region into deflation, reversing many of the gains of the past year.

"The euro area is turning the corner from recession to a weak recovery that remains uneven and fragile," it said.

It said that advanced economies need to maintain easy-money policies to keep boosting demand and enable government to improve their fiscal balances.

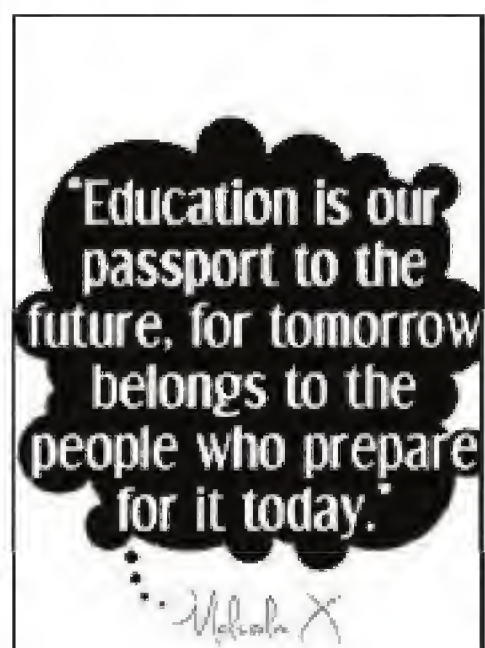
Facing tighter monetary conditions, emerging economies meanwhile need to do more work on their own economic policies and management to build their credibility with markets.

The IMF added, too, that advanced economy central banks in the process of pulling back from crisis-era monetary policies, like the Fed with its huge stimulus program, could do well to better coordinate and communicate their actions to reduce the shock effect on the rest of the world.



Current as of:
02/19/2014

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84
(per 10,000)			



COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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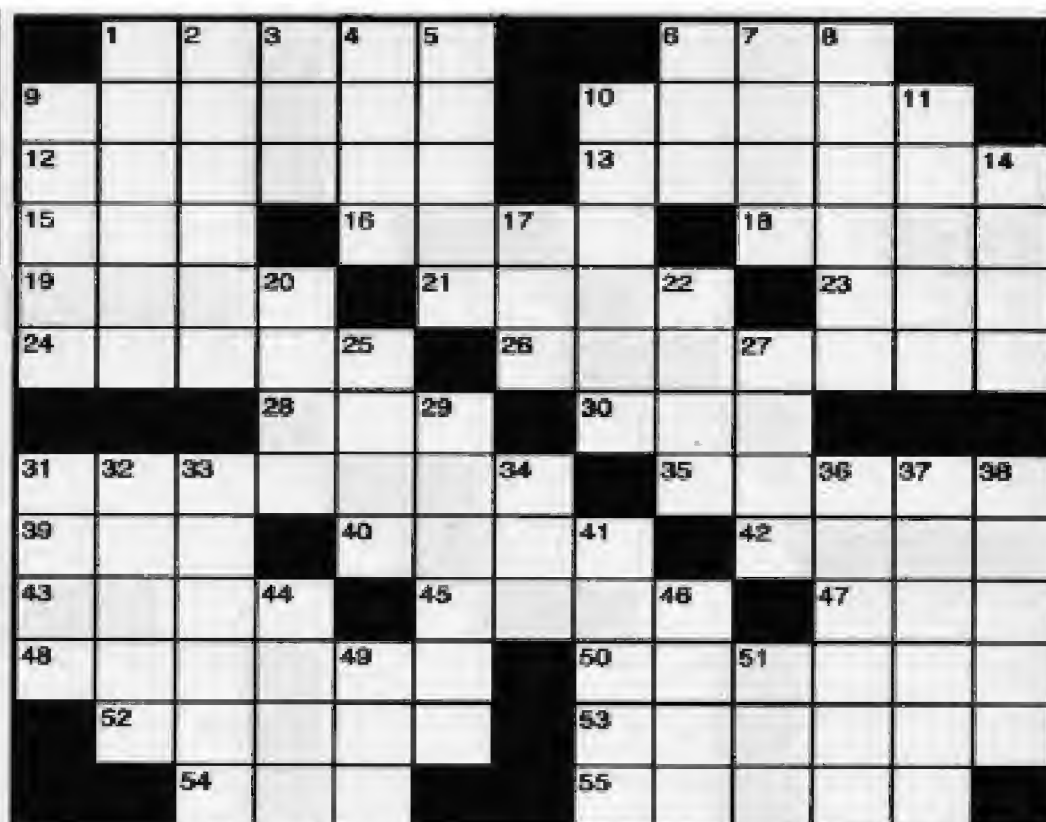


CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Repent
6. Dirt plus water
9. Elicits
10. Coffeehouses
12. Becomes jittery
13. Uttered derisive sounds
15. Day's 24 (abbr.)
16. Father, to a baby
18. TV chef Moulton
19. Egyptian goddess
21. Christmas season
23. Wall climber
24. Movie star, for short
26. Snoopy and others
28. Evita's country (abbr.)
30. Singer's syllable
31. Impart gradually



35. Big chunks
39. "___ Tin Tin"
40. Farm pen
42. Roasting stick
43. Wood feature
45. "Oz" author
47. Prior to (prefix)
48. Pat a cat
50. Diminish
52. Toast start
53. Mend
54. Tofu bean
55. Like last week's bread
3. Approves
4. Necessity
5. Test type
6. ___ jacket ('60s style)
7. "Unsolved Mysteries" subjects
8. Minor part
9. Word after work or moral
10. Swiss cottage
11. Wait tables
14. "A Hard ___ Night"
17. Add sound to video
20. Bench
22. Lobe locations
25. ___-a-brac
27. Dames
29. Spheres
31. Upsets
32. Final inning, usually
33. Sleeps noisily
34. Mauna ___
36. Charisma
37. Golf score
38. Beef animal
41. Feline sounds
44. Bull (Sp.)
46. Run into
49. ___ lime pie
51. Ledger examiner (abbr.)

DOWN

1. Unwilling
2. One of two in the throat

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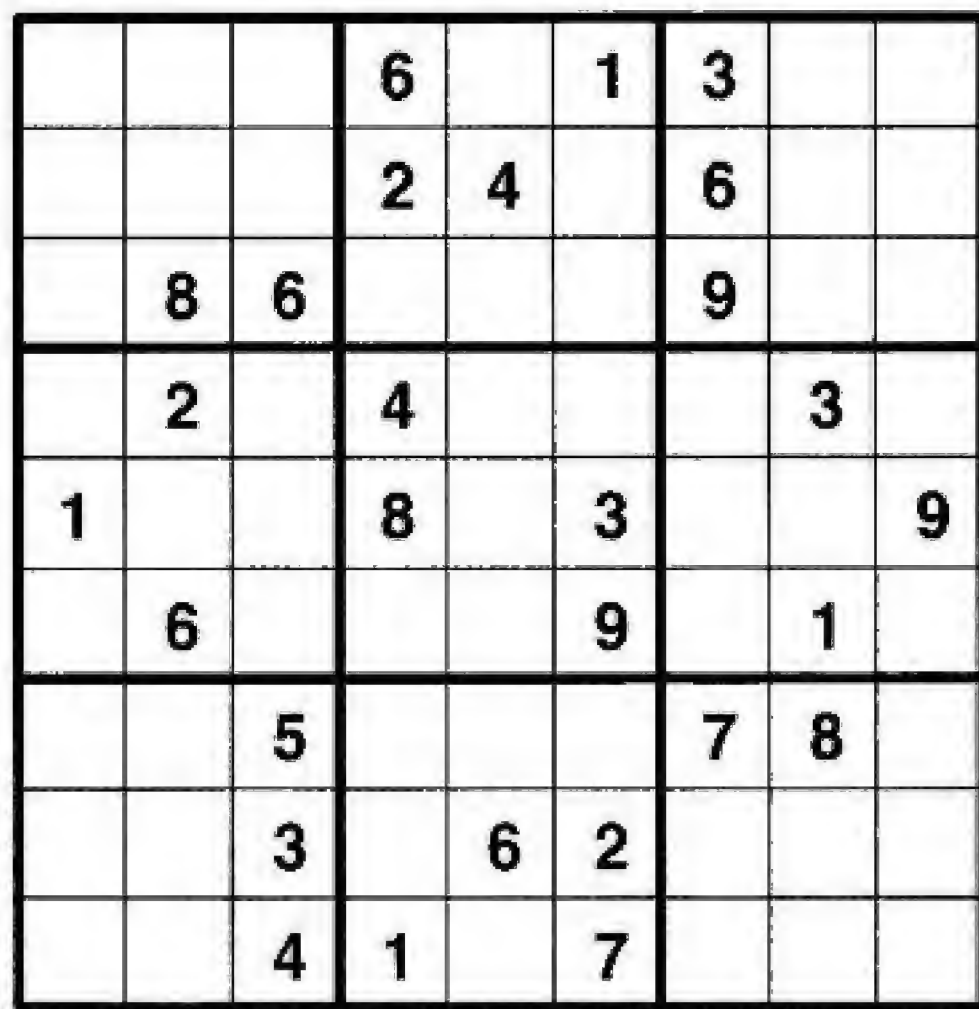
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	5	2	7	8	1	6	9	3
9	6	1	2	9	5	2	8	7
9	8	2	9	6	5	1	2	7
2	1	6	6	5	2	8	9	3
6	9	5	2	8	2	9	1	7
2	6	9	1	6	2	5	7	3
1	2	6	5	2	8	9	7	3
5	2	9	8	2	1	6	6	7
8	6	1	6	9	2	5	2	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at

8am, patrons can now order 2 eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie, so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are



ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to

watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.

Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches! Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our



concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when

complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area, also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to

purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Who's winning what at the Winter Olympics



South Korea's Kim Yu-Na performs



Norway's Ole Einar Bjoerndalen competes in the Biathlon mixed

SOCH (AFP) - Who won what on Wednesday.

Curling -

Great Britain made sure of their best Winter Olympic medal haul since 1936 on Wednesday when their men's curling team reached the Sochi final with a 6-5 victory over Sweden.

Britain is now guaranteed to finish with at least three medals -- and will equal its best performance since the 1936 Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

The men's curling team are assured of at least a silver while the country's women's curlers, who lost their semi-final to Canada 6-4 on Wednesday, could collect a bronze if they see off Switzerland in the third-place play-off.

Ice Hockey -

Russia crashed out of the Olympic ice hockey event to a chorus of jeers and recriminations Wednesday while Kim Yu-Na swept majestically closer to a successful defence of her figure skating crown.

With many fans believing the Olympics begin and end with Russia's vaunted hockey team, things looked good when the hosts took the lead in their quarter-final against Fin-

land.

But a lacklustre performance saw them slump to a 3-1 defeat, their second successive Olympic Games quarter-final exit.

Finland go on to face Sweden, 5-0 winners over Slovenia, in the semi-finals.

Defending champions Canada edged Latvia 2-1 and will face old rivals United States who reached the semi-finals with a 5-2 win over the Czech Republic.

Figure skating -

South Korean superstar Kim Yu-Na opened up a fractional 0.28 lead on Russian teenager Adelina Sotnikova in the short programme of the women's figure skating.

Fifteen-year-old Julia Lipnitskaia had been expected to challenge Kim after helping Russia to the new team gold just over a week ago but instead she is struggling in fifth after a fall on a triple flip.

It was national champion Sotnikova, 17, who lifted Russian spirits with a rousing skate to "Carmen" which brought the 17,000-capacity crowd at Iceberg Skating Palace to their feet.

Kim, 23, had earlier scored 74.92 points for her skate to

"Send In The Clowns" with Sotnikova just marginally behind with 74.64.

Italy's Carolina Kostner is sitting third with 74.12 with less than a point separating the top three skaters.

Men's giant slalom -

In the mountains above Sochi, four-time world champion skier Ted Ligety won the men's giant slalom.

The 29-year-old, who won combined gold at the 2006 Turin Games, did enough on his second ski to beat Frenchman Steve Missillier by nearly half a second in an overall time of 2min 45.29sec. French tyro Alexis Pinturault took bronze.

Norwegian biathlete Ole Einar Bjoerndalen finally sealed his reputation as the greatest Winter Olympian in history by taking a record 13th medal with gold in the mixed relay.

Bjoerndalen, 40, now holds the record outright for the most medals at Winter Games after overtaking his compatriot, the cross country ski legend Bjorn Daehlie, who won 12 medals.

Bjoerndalen has now also won eight gold medals at Winter Olympics, equalling Daehlie's own record.

Men's snowboarding -

Russia's Vic Wild captured the men's snowboarding parallel giant slalom title just minutes after his wife Alena Zavarzina took bronze in the women's event behind winner Patrizia Kummer of Switzerland.

Skiing -

Cross country skiing superstar Marit Bjoergen took Norway to victory in the women's team sprint race, the fifth Olympic gold of her career, while Finland won the men's race.

Speed skater 5,000 women-

Czech speed skater Martina Sablikova defended her Olympic crown in the women's 5,000m while Ireen Wust of the Netherlands took silver -- her fourth medal of the Games.



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BRIEFS:



PARIS (AFP) - Holders Bayern Munich and Spanish side Atletico Madrid took large strides towards the quarter-finals as they secured precious away wins in their Champions League last 16 first-leg ties on Wednesday. Bayern beat Arsenal 2-0 with both their goals coming in the second half after the hosts had been reduced to 10 men shortly before half-time when Polish goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny was sent-off for a rash challenge on Arjen Robben. Atletico gave themselves a great chance of making the quarter-finals for the first time in 17 years as a fifth goal of the campaign by Diego Costa seven minutes from time gave them a 1-0 win over Italy's last representatives AC Milan. In the other game Milan had started the brightest against a side who are bidding to reach the last eight for the first time in 17 years.



MARANA (AFP) - England's Ian Poulter became the first major upset at the \$9 million World Golf Championships Match Play Championship, losing to American Rickie Fowler 2 and 1 on Wednesday. Poulter, who won the Match Play crown in 2010, reached the semi-finals last year before losing to Hunter Mahan. But the world number 15 crashed out in the first round this year at the hands of Fowler, who birdied to win the fourth and took the par-3 sixth and par-four seventh with pars to lead early on 3-up, then topped Poulter's birdie at 14 with an eagle to win the hole. "I was definitely an underdog coming in," Fowler said. "Heck, if I was filling out a bracket I would have picked Poulter too." Fowler, a 14th seed in the quarter of the draw topped by Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, advanced to a second-round match against the hottest player on the US PGA Tour, fellow American Jimmy Walker.



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Drag Racing Season about to begin at Palo Marga Race track

ORANJESTAD - Work is underway at the Palo Marga racing facility getting the runway and all the surrounding facilities ready for the start of the 2014 racing season.

This is expected to be just after the close of Carnival. The next events of Street Legal are scheduled to take place from the 8th to the 22nd of March. The larger vehicles will get into action at the end of March during the 2014 Boss Drag War.

There is already a tentative program for the entire year. They are only waiting for confirmation of a few promoters, after which they will publish the official program for the entire 2014 year.

With respect to the Boss



Drag War, this is programmed for Friday the 28th and 29th of March and will be valid for the IHRA Summit Super Series. Riders are reminded to renew their IHRA memberships for 2014.

On Friday the 28th of March drivers in the Jr. Dragster categories will run, also Box and Sportsman Bike and Front wheel Drive. On Saturday 29th, the Jr. Dragster categories, No Box, Box, Pro ET Bike and Import Class will hit the track.

Depending on the level of interest, the race way may open with traction on the weekend prior for those interested in testing and tuning their vehicles.

In the next few days there will be more information forthcoming regarding any eventual changes of, among others, the introduction of the crossover system. Drivers will be duly informed.

Aruba International Half Marathon is ready to roll on The 16th of March

ORANJESTAD - The biggest event organized by Instituto Biba Saludabel y Activo (IBISA) is ready to get underway on Sunday, March 16th. All preparations are being made for this 29th Aruba International Half Marathon. As is customary, it will leave from the Joe Laveist Sport Park in San Nicolaas and end at the Alhambra Casino. Within exactly 4 weeks this great event will take place. Already many athletes are training for the 21 kilometers challenge. There is a great deal of international contacts and correspondence with international athletes making plans to be in Aruba to participate in our International Half Marathon grand event. Expectations are high again, hence IBISA is certain to receive a record number of participants. In the upcoming days and weeks we will receive more information regarding this grand event.



Football: Coaches gather for World Cup seminar

FLORIANOPOLIS (AFP) - World Cup coaches gathered in the southern Brazilian city of Florianopolis for a series of pre-tournament seminars to discuss logistics. Brazil's 2002 winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari led the way as 24 of the 32 coaches arrived in the beach resort of Costao do Santinho a day after FIFA confirmed it is retaining Curitiba as one of 12 venues. World football's governing body had warned the venue faced the axe with preparations lagging well behind schedule but agreed to give the Arena da Baixada a second chance after work was stepped up over the past month. England's Roy Hodgson was arriving after a reconnaissance trip to the Amazonian city of Manaus, where his side will tackle Italy in the heat for their first group game before meetings with Uruguay and Costa Rica. Hodgson's pre-draw comments that Manaus was a place to avoid given the venue's heat and humidity caused a storm locally but a letter to local authorities and his visit have repaired relations. Eight coaches will not be at the workshop, including Germany's Joachim Loew, who attended Bayer Leverkusen's Champions League drubbing Tuesday by Paris Saint Germain. Further absentees are the coaches of Argentina, Algeria, Belgium, Chile, Italy, Japan and South Korea. With less than four months to go, the meeting is to discuss finer details of the tournament, such as medical and media issues, accommodation and marketing. The hosts, five times champions, will name their final 23-man squad on May 7.



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NBA: LeBron hits season-high 42 to lead Heat over Mavs



DALLAS (AFP) - LeBron James scored a season-high 42 points and sparked a late run that secured the reigning NBA champion Miami Heat's 117-106 victory Tuesday at Dallas.

Four-time NBA Most Valuable Player James connected on 16-of-23 shots from the field, including 4-of-8 from 3-point range, and added nine rebounds and six assists for Miami.

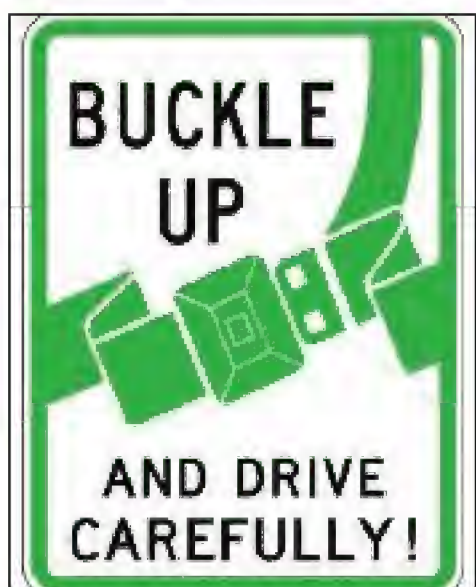
Vince Carter's free throw with 7:47 remaining gave the Mavericks a 95-92 lead but the Heat scored the next 14 points to seize command.

James opened the run with back-to-back 3-pointers, added a basket and two free throws for 10 points in the run and Dallas came no closer than eight points the rest of the way.

Miami improved to 4-1 on a road trip that ends Thursday against NBA scoring leader Kevin Durant and the Oklahoma City Thunder, who ripped the Heat earlier this season at Miami.

Chris Bosh scored 22 points and Chris Andersen contributed 18 more off the bench for Miami. Dwyane Wade had 13 points and seven assists for the Heat.

German star Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 22 points and also contributed nine rebounds and seven assists for the Mavericks, who won six of their past seven games.



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Inscription open for the 3rd Annual Ms. Canada Beach Volleyball fundraising event



ORANJESTAD - Michelle Begin of Canada considers Aruba her "home away from home" for five weeks every year. She has wintered her for more than twenty years. She cares greatly for the less fortunate and needs to feel involved with her community, particularly on Aruba, and has devoted the last few years to fundraising for some favorite causes. Her desire to "give back" to the island where she has made so many dear friends, resulted in her organizing an annual fundraising volleyball tournament last year, which has proved hugely successful.

The vivacious lady who has earned the nickname of "Ms. Canada," among her island friends is back, putting together this year's event, with spectacular raffle prizes and

more interesting perks for participating teams and spectators.

This year, the tournament will take place on Sunday, March 9.

It will take place at what was the tennis courts for the La Cabana and Tropicana Resorts, which has now been converted into a beach tennis club. Groups that wish to compete can sign up in the offices of Beach Tennis Aruba, or BTA, located in the parking lot between the two resorts or at the Harley Davidson Dealership on L.G. Smith Boulevard near Oranjestad.

Last year, funds and donations from Balashi Brewery purchased a desperately needed commercial dishwasher for Ambiente Feliz, a full time home for the mentally challenged. This year, they

will again receive needed repairs. Other foundations earmarked for the proceeds are Club Kibrahacha 60+, a social and activities center for retirees and a building for the Washington Soccer Field. A portion will also be set aside for the Aruba Scholarship Foundation. One of their board members, Bryan Marchena, is a staunch supporter of Miss Canada's efforts, donating all her printed materials. The ASF provides funding for Aruban students going on to universities in other countries.

Principal sponsors for a second year are, as mentioned, Tropical Bottling/Balashi Brewery and Portfolio Printing in Sun Plaza. Generously donating prizes for the fundraising raffle are Diamante and Queen's Jewelers from Oranjestad with some exquisite pieces. Michelle has also personally contributed a set of His/Her quartz watches with Mother of Pearl. Renaissance Resort has provided a weekend stay at their resort as a raffle prize, and some lucky winners will get 4 nights/5 days at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino or a full week at the Tropicana Resort. The tournament starts at 9:00 AM



in the morning and the raffle drawing will be conducted at 6:00 PM.

Last year, a full roster provided an exciting day of beach volleyball action. There will be food and drink booths to further help raise funds. To meet her mark of \$10,000, Michelle will be stationed at Ling & Sons Supermarket on the weekend selling raffle tickets for \$20. She will be stationed at various markets around Aruba through the week selling raffle tickets for \$20.

The volleyball tournament as proven to be a fun day for both participants and spectators, all for a good cause. Call Michelle at 564-3179 and get your registration form in as soon as possible.